

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SNM-02 DEAE-00 H-02 /026 W

-----241820Z 024706 /50

P R 241049Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2490

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11292

USIA FOR IEA, IPS, IBS, IOR/RIM, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION-WOLFF NARCOTIC DISCLOSURES

THREE MAJOR BANGKOK DAILIES CONTINUE COMMENT ON CONGRESSMAN
LESTER WOLFF'S DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES OF SINO-THAI BUSINESSMEN
ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

COLUMNIST SERMSRI ECKACHAI, WRITING MAY 24 IN THE MASS-
CIRCULATION THAI-LANGUAGE PAPER DAILY TIME, WHICH SHE OWNS,
SAYS SHE'S GLAD THE NAMES HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AND HOPES THE 12
ALLEGED TRAFFICKERS WILL BE EXECUTED UNDER ARTICLE 21 OF THE THAI
CONSTITUTION (UNDER WHICH NO TRIAL WOULD BE NECESSARY).

SERMSRI ARGUES THAT "SINCE NARCOTICS ARE THE GREATEST DANGER
TO SOCIETY" THE GOVERNMENT MUST EMPLOY "STRONGER MEASURES...TO
ELIMINATE THESE SUBVERTERS FROM THIS COUNTRY." WITH PROFITS MADE
IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, THIS WILL BE HARD, SHE CONTINUES, AND WARNS
AGAINST TRAFFICKERS'S USE OF "BRIBERY AT ALL LEVELS" TO STAY IN
BUSINESS.

SERMSRI CONCLUDES THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT SHOULD
ESTABLISH A "SPECIAL ORGANIZATION TO HANDLE NARCOTICS CASES DIRECTLY,
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TO "FIND THE NARCOTICS MASTERMINDS" AND ONCE FOUND, DISPOSING OF
THEM EITHER THROUGH THE COURTS OR ARTICLE 21.

COLUMNIST TAHARN KAO IN THE CONSERVATIVE AFTERNOON DAILY
SIAM RATH, OWNED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ, DECLARED
MAY 23 THAT HE DOUBTS THE ACCURACY OF THE WOLFF DISCLOSURES.

OTHERWISE, TAHARN CONTINUES, "OUR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION COMMITTEE

WOULD HAVE ARRESTED (THE TRAFFICKERS) LONG AGO SO THAT THE PRIME MINISTER COULD ORDER THEIR EXCCUTION."

TAHARN FEELS THAT THE WOLFF REMARKS WERE MADE TO GAIN HEADLINES FOR HIMSELF AT THE EXPENSE OF THAILAND'S REPUTATION, AND THEY HAVE MOST SERIOUSLY SULLIED THE IMAGE OF OUR COUNTRY.

"THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT AMERICANS CANNOT BE TRUSTED IS NOT AS SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT AS WHO WILL BE ABLE TO CLEANSE THE IMAGE OF THAILAND, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SULLIED?"

COLUMNIST CHOTE SAENG, WRITING MA24 IN THE MASS-CIRCULATION DAO DARA YUK SIAM, SAYS THE WOLFF REMARKS WILL GREATLY BOOST TOURIST TRAVEL TO THAILAND, BUT ALL THE TOURISTS WILL BE "DOPE ADDICTS." CHOTE REGARDS WOLFF'S STATEMENTS AS "IRRESPONSIBLE" AND DECLARES THAT THILAND IS VERY STRICT IN DEMANDING THAT ALL (NARCOTICS) SUPPRESSION WORK BE CARRIED ON IN DEAD EARNEST," AS SHOWN BY THE EXECUTION LAST MONTH OF A NARCOTICS TRAFFICER.

TURNING PHILOSOPHICAL, CHOTE SYAS THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS WHO ARE CAUGHT OR EXECUTED ARE "SMALL FRY WHOSE LIVES ARE WORTHLESS AND WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES LUCKY IF THEY CAN EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER DAY BY DAY."

CHOTE WONDERS IF PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION METHODS ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. "THE DISASTER MENACING UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR NATION CAUSED BY ILLICIT DRUGS IS INCREASING DAILY. THE MORE DRASTIC THE SUPPRESSION ACTION TAKEN, THE HIGHER THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS, "CHOTE CONCLUDES. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, NARCOTICS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO11292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0218
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770525/aaaaavsu.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 38d2568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2398150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI MEDIA REACTION-WOLFF NARCOTIC DISCLOSURES THREE MAJOR BANGKOK DAILIES CONTINUE COMMENT ON CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES OF SINO-THA
TAGS: SNAR, SOPN, TH, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/38d2568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009